

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figures 10 and 11 should be labeled by a legend such as --PRIOR ART--. In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets of the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which the label --PRIOR ART-- has been added to Figures 10 and 11. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Specification

The specification has been amended to place such in better form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 5 remain pending in the application. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve its form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim pending in the application.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 through 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. 2000-66500 (Notani, et al.).

The rationale underlying the foregoing art rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejection

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for an image forming apparatus that includes a developing device containing developer including toner and carrier, the developing device having a first chamber for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member, and a second chamber constituting a developer circulating route between the second chamber and the first chamber; a carrying member rotatably provided in the second chamber for carrying the developer; a rotary member holding the developing device and rotatable in a route including a developing position; supplying means for supplying the developer to the developing device, which is in the developing position; an opening provided in the second chamber for outwardly discharging therethrough any excess developer resulting from the supply of the developer; an opening and closing member for opening and closing the opening by operation of gravity with the rotation of said rotary member; and a protruding portion of a wall portion of the second chamber on a side on which the opening and closing member is opened, the protruding portion protruding toward an inside of the second chamber.

The invention relates to a structure for discharging developer from a developing apparatus when the developing apparatus rotates. According to the invention, even if a

developing device is rotated, an amount of developer in a developing device approaching an opening through which the developer is discharged can be reduced so that an amount of the discharged developer can be reduced.

Notani, et al. discloses a developing device, wherein developer is discharged when the developing apparatus rotates. Notani, et al. discloses a shutter (designated by a reference numeral 71 in Figure 27) for opening and closing an opening portion for discharging the developer with rotation of the developing device. However, Notani, et al. does not disclose or suggest a protruding portion of a wall portion of the second chamber on a side on which the opening and closing member is opened, wherein the protruding portion protrudes toward an inside of the second chamber as recited in independent Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Notani, et al. does not anticipate amended Claim 1.

Dependent Claims

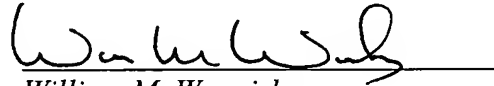
Claims 2 through 5 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

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